GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5402
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2008
FOOD PRODUCTION
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the per capita food production in the country during 2006-07 has declined to the levels of 1970 due to multiplying population and stagnation in growth of agriculture production;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for stagnation in foodgrains production;

(c) whether the country face a prospect of acute food shortage in the near future due to declining production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the strategy chalked out to increase food production in the Eleventh Plan?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): The per capita foodgrains production in the country was 200.4 kilogram during 1970-71 and 195.3 kilogram during 2006-07 and is estimated to be 201.3 kilogram during 2007-08. The foodgrains production in the recent past has increased from 198.36 million tonnes during 2004-05 to 208.60 million tonnes during 2005-06, 217.28 million tonnes during 2006-07 and further to 227.32 million tonnes during 2007-08 (3rd Advance Estimates released on 22.04.2008).

(c) & (d): No. Sir. Country is likely to remain self-sufficient in foodgrains production in the near future. In order to increase the production of rice, wheat and pulses,a Centrally Sponsored Scheme `National Food Security Mission` (NFSM) has been launched in the country from Rabi 2007-08. It aims at adding the production of rice by 10 million tonnes, wheat by 8 million tonnes and pulses by 2 million tonnes by the end of the Eleventh Plan, i.e., by 2011-12 through area increase and productivity enhancement in targeted districts. Besides, the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with an objective to incentivise the States to increase investment in agricultural and allied sector has been launched.